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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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S-E-C-R-E-T

25X1

COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Army Maneuvers in SE Bulgaria, 2-5 October 1957	DATE DISTR.	14 November 1957
DATE OF INFO.		NO. PAGES	1 [REDACTED]
PLACE & DATE ACQ.		REQUIREMENT NO.	RD [REDACTED]
REFERENCES [REDACTED]			
[REDACTED]			

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

"Activity in Connection with Army Maneuvers in South Eastern Bulgaria." This report gives the locations, [REDACTED] and local times of the military activity observed on 2 and 5 October 1957.

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STATE	X ARMY	#	X NAVY	X AIR	X FBI	AEC				
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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#".)

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SECRET**ATTACHMENT**BULGARIAMILITARYActivity in connection with Manoeuvres in South EasternBulgaria

1. The following is an account of the military activity observed on a road journey from SOFIA to the [redacted] frontier via PLODIV and SVILENGRAD on the 2nd October and a corresponding return journey on the 5th October 1957.

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2. 2nd October

<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u> (local)	<u>Activity</u>	
(a) POPOVITSA	1400	2 Signals vans 2 6 wheeled scout cars (1 was on tow) All Westbound but stationary.	25X1
(b) Rd Junction		2' long Red arrow on North side of road pointing South to track leading to TATAREVO. 1 Signals van parked on South side of main road at this junction. No aerials observed.	
(c) 5 kms West of DEBUR		Westbound convoy of 12 [redacted] stationary nose to tail at roadside. 1 [redacted] about middle of convoy loaded with petrol drums equivalent in size to 44-gallon drum, from one of which jerry cans were being filled by small semi-rotary hand pump - for refuelling the convoy vehicles.	25X1 25X1
(d) Vicinity of YABELKOVO	1420	Single engined high wing spotter aircraft seen flying in Westerly direction.	
(e) KHASKOVO	1430 (i)	2 Signals vans and 1 Jeep in permanent Radar compound at LG 8145. Vans were very badly camouflaged with ungarnished scrim-nets.	

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(ii)

All radar scanners and aerials were stationary.

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(iii)/

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SECRET**SECRET**LocationTime
(local)Activity

25X1

(e)

(iii) 12 tanks (probably T.34s) lined up in barracks North of road on West side of KHASKOVO.

2½ kms East
of KHASKOVO

1440

(iv) 3 Signals vans, including 1 with trailer-generator, and 3 [] all on rail-flats in KHASKOVO sidings.

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1450

The observer was stopped by a "regulovchik" (who was a Tank private) and ordered to wait by the roadside. The following appeared to be the personnel employed at the road check:-
1 Tank corporal
6 " privates
1 Infantry private
1 private with plain black shoulder boards with red piping and
1 Militia Sergeant.
The check point was visited by a Captain from time to time.

25X1

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The following items were seen at this check-point during the next four hours:-

1500

(v) 6 large saloon cars (ZIMs and ZISs) Eastbound at speed, and appeared to be full of senior officers.

(vi)

4 6-wheel [] Eastbound carrying large timber baulks not less than 6" X 6" section, some of them fastened together with double pointed "dog" nails.

25X1

(vii)

1 [] Eastbound carrying beds.

25X1

(viii)

1 [] Westbound loaded with ammunition cases (equivalent in size to 75 m ammunition containers).

25X1

(ix)

2 6-wheel [] Eastbound each towing specialised trailer shown in sketch at Appendix 'A'.

25X1

(x)

3 [] Eastbound. []

25X1

(xi)

1 [] loaded with ungarnished coloured camouflage nets.

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1830 (xii) Picket consisting of N.C.O and 8 Tank privates with rolled/

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SECRET**SECRET**LocationMap Reference[]
(local)Activity

25X1

rolled blanket slung round shoulders and armed with rifles, marched to check point building from direction of KASKOVO.

1840 (xiii)

After dusk, the "regulovchik" was accompanied by a soldier in a spotted camouflage suit with long skirted smock. Armed with automatic rifle and wearing on left arm red armband []

25X1

1845 (xiv)

6 large saloon cars (ZIMs and ZISs) Westbound at speed.
7 jeeps and
1 command car
1 [] with 16 officers
1 [] with about one dozen officers.
all Westbound.

25X1

(f)

1900

The observer was allowed to proceed in convoy with some half dozen motorists with foreign number plates, escorted by a Captain on a motor-cycle.

1905

After $\frac{1}{2}$ kilometre a single soldier was seen in similar camouflage outfit to that described in (e. xiii) above, but he was so anxious not to be seen that he tried entirely unsuccessfully to hide behind a militia-man as the observer drove past.

(g)

4 [] Westbound

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(h)

1 [] Eastbound

(i)

1920

Westbound convoy comprising:-
1 large signals van with whip aerial erected.
3 6-wheel [] towing tarpaulin covered guns (probably medium field guns).
14 [] and 3 jeeps.
All were close spaced nose to tail and showing normal driving lights.

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25X1

(j)

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1930

Noise of several tanks heard South of road, numerous vehicle lights seen - all presumed from milestones to be in general area of BREGOVO []

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(k) KHARMANLI

1945

Over 100 other ranks were apparently off duty collected in loose crowd in main street. (1) / ^{ass}

25X1

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<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u> (local)	<u>Activity</u>	
(1)		Isolated sentries and 2 motor cycle combinations were seen between HARMANLI and BISER [redacted] where the observer's motor-cycle escort permitted foreign travellers to continue unaccompanied. No military activity was observed East of BISER.	25X1

25X1

3. 5th October

<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u> (local)	<u>Activity</u>	
(a) SVILENGRAD	1230	After a night of heavy rain 100 yards of cobbled road immediately to the East of SVILENGRAD was flooded to a depth of 3" to 4".	25X1
(b) POLYANOVO road junction		Westbound convoy of:- 4 [redacted] including 1 towing a field kitchen. 2 Signals vans.	25X1
(c) 3 kms East of HARMANLI		5 [redacted] parked just south of road. Field kitchen in operation, feeding between 30 and 40 troops [redacted]	25X1
		1 Headquarters van and 1 signals van parked on road. 40 [redacted] parked nose to tail in five rows.	25X1
(d) 2 kms East of HARMANLI		1 Ambulance standing at empty rail siding. 3 tarpaulin covered light A.A. guns sited within 25 yards of each other on hill top south of road opposite rail siding. 3 [redacted] parked near guns.	25X1
(e) HASKOVO	1345 (i)	In another rail-siding 1 km East of HASKOVO, 17 empty flat trucks were seen. 2 stationary trains consisting mostly of flat trucks, and nearby apparently awaiting loading were:- 22 [redacted] 3 Jeeps 2 motor cycle combinations.	25X1
	(ii)	In HASKOVO a picket of 17 infantrymen, with rolled blankets slung, and armed with rifles were seen marching East through the town.	25X1

(iii)/

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<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u> (local)	<u>Activity</u>	
(e)		(iii) A total of 31 officers were seen in small groups scattered through the town. (iv) The 12 tanks mentioned in Para. 2. e. iii. were still in the barracks West of the town, as were the signals vans in the radar compound. (v) All radar scanners and aerials were stationary. (vi) No aircraft seen on UZUNDZHODO airfield which was clearly observed.	25X1
(f) 3 kms East of DEBIR	1430	Westbound convoy parked at roadside closely spaced, comprising of:- 29 [] all loaded high with logs and rough timber in about 3' lengths. The majority of the [] carried vehicle []	25X1 25X1
		Some 6 of the [] appeared to consist of a light grey modern cab and chassis with old service green bodies added to them. []	25X1
PLODIV	1530	A total of 13 airforce officers were seen in PLODIV. No other activity of note was observed during the remainder of the journey.	

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Source's Comment:

- (a) On both journeys there was no observable activity at the hospital train sidings at NOVI KHAN [redacted] 25X1
BANYA [redacted] 25X1
- (b) On the return journey a strong impression was gained that the manoeuvres, at least in the area traversed, were over.
Para 2.e. vi. The timber on these [redacted] looked as though it might have been used as improvised bridging material. [redacted] 25X1
- (c) [redacted]
- (d) The sketch at Appendix A shows the trailer somewhat larger than life size in proportion to the 6 wheel [redacted]. Its appearance was suggestive of an overgrown field kitchen or perhaps field bakery. [redacted] 25X1
- (e) [redacted] 25X1

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APPENDIX 'A'

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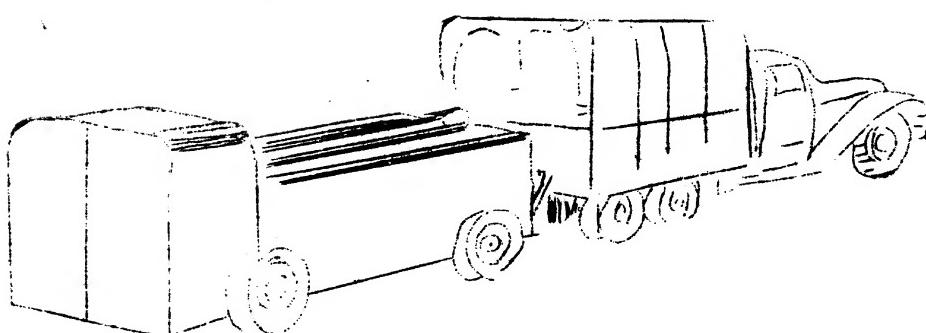
Rough impression of specialised trailer

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The horizontal pipe appeared to be a chimney fastened down for travelling.